

Praveen Vashista sworn in as Vigilance Commissioner in CVC

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (PTI)

FORMER IPS officer Praveen Vashista was on Friday sworn in as the Vigilance Commissioner in the probity watchdog Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

Vashista last served as special secretary (internal security) in the Union Home Ministry.

He was named the vigilance commissioner last month. Vashista made and subscribed the oath on Friday as Vigilance Commissioner before Central Vigilance Commissioner P K Srivastava. With his appointment, the CVC is at its full strength. The probity watchdog is headed by a central vigilance commissioner and can have a maximum of two vigilance commissioners.

Vashista, a 1991 batch former Indian police service (IPS) officer of the Bihar cadre, has a distinguished career spanning over three decades, serving in diverse and important areas such as law enforcement, crisis response, security and management. He has worked as the inspector general of Economic Offences Wing and Crime Investigation Department of Bihar. As Superintendent of Police, he maintained law and order in districts such as Ranchi, Dumka and Garhwa. Vashista has also served as superintendent of police and deputy inspector general in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

In touch with US on Chabahar port sanctions waiver: Govt

New Delhi: Amid reports that India might exit the Chabahar port under pressure from the US, govt said on Friday it remains in touch with Washington to implement the sanctions waiver that the US has granted till April 26, 2026.

“As you are aware, on Oct 28, 2025, the US department of treasury had issued a letter outlining the guidance on the conditional sanctions waiver valid till 26 April 2026. We remain engaged with the US side in working out this arrangement,” said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

To isolate Iran, the US state department had in Sept revoked the sanctions exception issued in 2018 for the port that India has developed for its access to Afghanistan and central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. The revocation was meant to come into effect on Sept 29 but was extended later by the US.

However, the US announcement earlier this week that it would impose 25% tariff on countries doing business with Iran has further complicated India's involvement with Chabahar project. India has committed to provide a Line of Credit of \$250 million in rupee equivalent for the port's development. Since 2018, the port has handled around 10 million tonne of bulk and general cargo. TNN

India, Japan decide to ramp up dialogue on economic security

Cooperation In AI, Critical Minerals To Get A Boost

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New Delhi: Foreign minister S Jaishankar and his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi Friday chaired the 18th India-Japan strategic dialogue that saw both sides agreeing to boost cooperation in AI and critical minerals while seeking enhanced engagement on issues related to South Asia, West Asia and Africa and reaffirming their commitment to development of India's northeast.

Among the significant outcomes was a decision to establish a Japan-India AI strategic dialogue and to ramp up dialogue both between the private sectors and govts on issues related to economic security. Jaishankar and Motegi, who called on PM Narendra Modi in the morning, also decided to convene the joint working group on critical minerals early this year under the eco-



Jaishankar receives a memento from Motegi in New Delhi on Friday

nomie security initiative to advance collaboration in the fields of rare earths and critical minerals, according to the MEA.

Both sides agreed to expedite the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train (Shinkansen) project and Japan reiterated its commitment to supply India with the next-gen E10 Shinkansen train. According to Japan, the AI initiative is aimed at achieving innovation and growth. There was focus on also boosting startup cooperation through a support initiative.

The ministers discussed resilient supply chains, critical minerals, defence and discussed ways to address energy, health, and mari-

time security. "Economic security today is particularly paramount. I think both our countries attach enormous importance to it, and how to de-risk our own economies, and how to de-risk the international economy are both very important," said Jaishankar.

Amid uncertainty over Quad, Jaishankar told Motegi India attached highest priority to working with Japan in forums like Quad, UN, G4 and G20. "We are leading democracies, we are the major economies of the world, and we have today not just an opportunity, but also an obligation, a duty to shape the global order, and in the current uncertain global situation, it's even more important that we work closely towards shared strategic goals," said Jaishankar.

Japan's foreign ministry spokesperson Toshihiro Kitamura said that "in order to have the engagement of the US in this region, we believe that Quad is a very important framework to facilitate such cooperation".

Japan expressed interest in quickly formalising the deal to supply the Indian Navy with Unified Complex Radio Antenna.

Trump: May punish nations with tariffs if they do not back US on Greenland

Copenhagen: President Donald Trump suggested Friday that he may punish countries with tariffs if they don't back the US controlling Greenland, a message that came as a bipartisan Congressional delegation sought to lower tensions in the Danish capital.

Trump for months has insisted that the US should control Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of Nato ally Denmark, and said earlier this week that anything less than the Arctic island being in US hands would be "unacceptable."

During an unrelated event at the White House about rural health care, he recounted Friday how he had threatened European allies with tariffs on pharmaceuticals. "I may do that for Greenland too," Trump said. "I may put a tariff on countries if they don't go along with Greenland, because we need Greenland for national security. So I may do that," he said. He had not previously mentioned using tariffs to try to force the issue.

Earlier this week, the foreign ministers of Denmark and Greenland met in Washington this week with US vice-president JD Vance and secretary of state Marco Rubio. That en-



Personnel believed to be from the German armed forces arrive in Nuuk. The head of Denmark's military Joint Arctic Command said on Friday that there were no Chinese or Russian ships observed near Greenland, despite repeated claims by US President Trump to the contrary

counter didn't resolve the deep differences, but did produce an agreement to set up a working group — on whose purpose Denmark and the White House then offered sharply diverging public views.

European leaders have insisted that is only for Denmark and Greenland to decide on matters concerning the territory, and Denmark said this week that it was increasing its military presence in Greenland in cooperation with allies.

In Copenhagen, a group of senators and members of the House of Representatives met Friday with Danish and Greenlandic lawmakers, and with leaders including Danish PM Mette Frederiksen. Delegation leader Senator Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat, thanked the group's hosts for

"225 years of being a good and trusted ally and partner" and said that "we had a strong and robust dialog about how we extend that into the future."

Senator Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, said after meeting lawmakers that the visit reflected a strong relationship over decades and "it is one that we need to nurture." She told reporters that "Greenland needs to be viewed as our ally, not as an asset, and I think that's what you're hearing with this delegation."

The tone contrasted with that emanating from the White House. Trump has sought to justify his calls for a US takeover by repeatedly claiming that China and Russia have their own designs on Greenland, which holds vast untapped reserves of critical minerals. AP

US tells UN all options on table, Iran warns will respond to any aggression

United Nations: The US stands by the "brave people of Iran," and President Trump "has made it clear all options are on the table to stop the slaughter," US ambassador to the UN **Mike Waltz** told the UN Security Council on Thursday.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to intervene in support of protesters in Iran, where thousands of people have been reported killed in a crackdown on the protests against clerical rule. But on Thursday, Trump adopted a wait-and-see posture, saying he had been told that the killings were easing and that he believed there was no current plan for large-scale executions.



"President Trump is a man of action, not endless talk like we see at the UN. He has made it clear all options are on the table to stop the slaughter," Waltz told the security council meeting, which Washington had requested. Waltz dismissed allegations by Iran that the protests are "a foreign plot to give a precursor to military action." "Everyone in the world needs to know that the regime is weaker than ever before, and therefore is putting forward this lie because of the power of the Iranian people in the streets. They are afraid. They are afraid of their own people," Waltz said.

Iran's deputy UN ambassa-

dor Gholamhossein Darzi said Iran does not seek escalation or confrontation and accused Waltz of resorting "to lies, distortion of facts, and a deliberate misinformation campaign to conceal his country's direct involvement in steering unrest in Iran to violence." "However, any act of aggression—direct or indirect—will be met with a decisive, proportionate, and lawful response," he said.

Russia's UN envoy Vassily Nebenzia accused the US of convening the UNSC to "justify blatant aggression and interference in the affairs of a sovereign state" and threats to "solve the Iranian problem in its favourite way: through strikes aimed to overthrow an undesirable regime." REUTERS

India attaches highest priority to working with Japan: Jaishankar



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar interacts with Japan's Foreign Affairs Minister Toshimitsu Motegi during his visit to India, in New Delhi. (@DrSJaishankar/X via PTI)

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (IANS)

HAILING the ties between India and Japan, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday that New Delhi attaches

the highest priority to working with Tokyo in international forums such as the QUAD, the United Nations and the G20.

In his opening remarks during the 18th India-Japan Strategic

Dialogue with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi in New Delhi, EAM Jaishankar noted that the ties between the two nations have transformed from an economic relationship to one which is "broad, comprehensive and strategic".

"Let me today as I welcome you underline that India attaches very great priority to its friendship with Japan, and over the last two decades, we have been successful in transforming the relationship from what was primarily an economic relationship into one that is broad, comprehensive and strategic in its focus. We attach the highest priority to working with Japan in international forums, and immediately, QUAD, the United Nations, our G4 membership, and the G20 come to mind," EAM Jaishankar said.